

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2090 - SB 2401

February 18, 2018

SUMMARY OF BILL: Extends applicability of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to qualified voters enrolled as full-time students at an accredited college, university, or other institution of higher learning outside the county where the student has residence.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

Exceeds \$54,000/FY19-20 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$108,000/FY18-19 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Exceeds \$54,000/FY21-22 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-502, applications for an absentee ballot or temporary registration for persons voting under UOCAVA may be in any form, but must contain certain information, and must be received in the county election commission office where the applicant is a resident not later than seven days prior to an election.
- The proposed language would authorize qualified voters enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college, university, or similar institution for higher learning that is located outside of the county where the student is a resident to send an application for an absentee ballot or temporary registration to their applicable county election commission no later than seven days prior to an election.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-502, upon determining if the applicant is entitled to register, vote or both in the election for which applied, the administrator of elections shall mail the applicant a ballot to vote absentee.
- Based on a survey of county election offices conducted by the Division of Elections, processing additional applications under UOCAVA will require additional staff and increased postage costs for certain county election offices; such costs are estimated to exceed \$54,000 statewide.

- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore in FY19-20 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$54,000.
- In FY18-19 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$108,000 (\$54,000 per election x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY21-22 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$54,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh